

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1                   1. A method for splicing video slices associated with a plurality of packet  
2 identifiers (PIDs), comprising:  
3                   loading a splicing hardware with a current PID and a target PID for an  
4 upcoming splice;  
5                   receiving an interrupt indicating that a splice has been performed; and  
6                   loading a new target PID into the splicing hardware for a next splice.
- 1                   2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 processing a transport stream for packets; and  
3 generating the interrupt in response to receiving a packet of a particular  
4 type.
- 1                   3. The method of claim 2, wherein the particular type packet is  
2 specifically inserted into the transport stream to cause the interrupt.
- 1                   4. The method of claim 2, wherein the particular type packet is a  
2 scrambled audio packet.
- 1                   5. The method of claim 2, wherein one or more packets are included in the  
2 transport stream between the particular type packet and a first packet with the new target  
3 PID.
- 1                   6. The method of claim 2, wherein one or more padding packets are  
2 inserted in the transport stream between the particular type packet and a first packet with  
3 the new target PID.
- 1                   7. The method of claim 1, wherein the interrupt is generated by the  
2 splicing hardware as a result of performing the splice.
- 1                   8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 identifying video packets in a transport stream;

3 checking the PID of each video packet in the transport stream against the  
4 current PID; and  
5 providing the video packet if the PID of the packet matches the current  
6 PID.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 if a splice has been performed and prior to loading the new target PID into  
3 the splicing hardware, transferring the target PID as the current PID within the splicing  
4 hardware.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the splicing is performed at a sub-  
2 picture level and a plurality of splices are performed for an intra-coded (I) picture.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein video slices for three or more PIDs  
2 are spliced to form the I picture.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 defining an array with a plurality of elements; and  
3 setting the plurality of elements in the array with the plurality of PIDs.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
2 traversing the elements in the array as each splice is performed; and  
3 providing the PID stored in a current element as the new target PID.

1 14. A method for splicing video slices associated with a plurality of  
2 packet identifiers (PIDs), comprising:  
3 initiating a splicing hardware with a set of parameters for an upcoming  
4 splice;  
5 receiving an interrupt indicating that a splice has been performed; and  
6 updating the set of parameters for the splicing hardware for a next splice.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the initiating includes  
2 loading the splicing hardware with a current PID and a target PID for the  
3 upcoming splice.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the updating includes  
2 loading a new target PID into the splicing hardware.

1 17. A method for triggering actions at a terminal, comprising:  
2 inserting packets of a particular type in a transport stream;  
3 receiving and processing the transport stream to retrieve the inserted  
4 packets;  
5 identifying the inserted packets as a particular type of packets used to  
6 trigger a particular action; and  
7 executing the particular action in response to identifying the inserted  
8 packets as being of the particular type.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the particular action is a splicing  
2 operation.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the particular type of packets is  
2 scrambled audio packets.

1 20. A terminal configurable to splice video slices associated with a  
2 plurality of packet identifiers (PIDs), comprising:  
3 a demodulator operative to receive and demodulate a modulated signal to  
4 provide a transport stream;  
5 a transport demultiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to  
6 receive and process the transport stream to provide a sequence of packets for a plurality  
7 of video slices associated with the plurality of PIDs, wherein the transport demultiplexer  
8 is loaded with a set of parameters for an upcoming splice and is further configured to  
9 provide an interrupt whenever a splice has been performed; and  
10 a controller coupled to the transport demultiplexer and configured to, in  
11 response to receiving the interrupt, direct updating of the set of parameters in the  
12 transport demultiplexer for a next splice.

1                   21. The terminal of claim 20, wherein the transport demultiplexer is  
2 loaded with a current PID and a target PID for the upcoming splice and is updated with a  
3 new target PID for the next splice.

1                   22. The terminal of claim 20, wherein the controller is further configured  
2 to maintain an array of elements, wherein the elements in the array are stored with PIDs  
3 to be spliced, and wherein the transport demultiplexer is updated based on PIDs stored in  
4 the array.